

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for admitting an information provider ~~(A₁)~~ to a method for ~~switching~~ transmitting information between information providers ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ via a ~~switching~~ transmission device ~~(2)~~, ~~characterized by the following method steps~~ the method comprising:

- receiving test data ~~(TD)~~ ~~which have been transmitted~~ by an information provider ~~(A₁)~~ to the transmission ~~switching~~ device, ~~(2)~~ ~~and which representing~~ information ~~(I₁)~~ offered by the information provider ~~(A₁)~~; i
- ~~evaluation~~ evaluating ~~of the~~ quality of the test data ~~(TD)~~ by the ~~switching~~ transmission device ~~(2)~~; i and
- ~~admission~~ admitting ~~of the~~ information provider ~~(A₁)~~ by the transmission ~~switching~~ device ~~(2)~~ to the method for transmitting ~~switching~~ information between information providers ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ in dependence on the quality of the test data ~~(TD)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the reception of test data ~~(TD)~~ is preceded by the following steps:

- receiving offer signaling data ~~(ASD)~~ which have been transmitted to the ~~switching~~ transmission device ~~(2)~~ by an information provider ~~(A₁)~~,

— sending test request data ~~(TAD)~~ from the ~~transmissionswitching~~ device ~~(2)~~ to the information provider ~~(A₁)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein ~~the method for switchingtransmitting~~ information between information providers ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ via a ~~transmissionswitching~~ device ~~(2)~~ comprises the following steps:

— receiving information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ which have been transmitted to the ~~transmissionswitching~~ device ~~(2)~~ by information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~,

— receiving information offer data ~~(AD)~~ which have been transmitted to the ~~transmissionswitching~~ device ~~(2)~~ by an admitted information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and which represent information ~~(I₁ to I_n)~~ offered by the respective information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~,

— comparing the information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ and the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ for determining corresponding information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ and information offer data ~~(AD)~~, and

— transmitting search result data ~~(SD)~~ to a terminal of an information seeker ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ if the information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ of the information seeker ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ correspond to the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ of an information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of ~~test data (TD) and/or~~ information offer data

~~(AD)~~ are transmitted encrypted between an information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and the transmissionswitching device ~~(2)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of~~ ~~claims 3 or 4, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein at least one of information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ and/or search result data ~~(SD)~~ are transmitted encrypted between an information seeker ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ and the transmissionswitching device.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~ ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the evaluation of the quality of the test data ~~(TD)~~ is stored correlated with the corresponding information provider ~~(A₁)~~ in the ~~switching~~transmission device ~~(2)~~ in order to generate an evaluation history correlated with the corresponding information provider ~~(A₁)~~, and that wherein the admission of the information provider ~~(A₁)~~ by the ~~switching~~transmission device ~~(2)~~ to the method for ~~switching~~ transmitting information between information providers ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ is made dependent on the evaluation history of the information provider ~~(A₁)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the~~ ~~preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the quality of the information ~~switched~~ transmitted to an information seeker ~~(N₁)~~ is evaluated by the information seeker ~~(N₁)~~, wherein ~~that~~ the evaluation of the quality is transmitted from the information seeker ~~(N₁)~~ to the ~~switching~~ transmission device ~~(2)~~ and is stored correlated with the corresponding information provider ~~(A₁)~~ in the ~~switching~~ transmission device

~~(2)~~ in order to generate an evaluation history correlated with the corresponding information provider ~~(A₁)~~, and that wherein the admission of the information provider ~~(A₁)~~ by the transmissionswitching device ~~(2)~~ to the method for transmittswitching information between information providers ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and information seekers ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ is made dependent on the evaluation history of the information provider ~~(A₁)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of,

an information seeker (N₁ to N_n) first transmits the information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ to an enquirer function unit ~~(3)~~ allocated to the information seeker ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~ and the information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ are automatically forwarded from there at least partially to the transmission switching device, ~~(2)~~ and/or

~~that~~ the transmissionswitching device ~~(2)~~ transmits the search result data ~~(SD)~~ to the enquirer function unit ~~(3)~~ which

sorts or normalizes at least one of information offer data ~~(AD)~~ contained therein and/or associated information provider data, before they are transmitted to the information seeker ~~(N₁ to N_n)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of,

an information provider (A₁ to A_n) first transmits the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ to a provider function unit ~~(4)~~

associated with the information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ and the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ are automatically forwarded from there at least partially to the transmissionswitching device ~~(2)~~, and/or

that ~~the~~ transmission ~~switching~~ device ~~(2)~~ transmits information enquiry data ~~(ND)~~ matching the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ of the information provider ~~(A₁ to A_n)~~ to the provider function unit ~~(4)~~ which initiates the more detailed comparison with the information ~~(I₁ to I_n)~~ represented by the information offer data ~~(AD)~~ by the associated data comparison device ~~(5)~~.

10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the evaluation of at least one of the quality and/or the evaluation history is transmitted to the information seeker ~~(N₁)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A transmissionswitching device ~~(2)~~, comprising:

— a provider test interface device (16) for receiving to receive test data, (TD) which were transmitted to the transmissionswitching device (2) by an information provider, (A₁) and which representing information (I₁) offered by the information provider (A₁),

— an evaluation device, (17) which is constructed for evaluating to evaluate the quality of test data (TD), and

— a control unit (10) which is, constructed in such a manner that the admission of the information provider (A₁) to a method

—~~for switching-transmitting~~ information is made dependent on the quality of the test data—~~(TD)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The transmissionswitching device (2) as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

—_____ a number of enquirer interface devices (7) ~~for receiving~~to receive information enquiry data (ND) ~~which were transmitted to the transmissionswitching device (2) by information seekers (N₁ to N_n), and for sending search result data (SD) to terminals of the relevant information seekers (N₁ to N_n),;~~

—_____ a number of provider interface devices (8) ~~for receiving~~to receive information offer data (AD) ~~which were transmitted to the transmissionswitching device (2) by information providers (A₁ to A_n) and which represent information (I₁ to I_n) offered by the respective information provider (A₁ to A_n),;~~

—_____ a comparison unit (11) ~~for comparing~~to compare the information enquiry data (ND) ~~and the information offer data (AD) for determining corresponding information enquiry data (ND) and information offer data (AD),;~~ and

—_____ a control unit (10) ~~which causes search result data (SD) to be transmitted to the terminal of an information seeker (N₁ to N_n) if the information enquiry data (ND) of the relevant information seeker (N₁ to N_n) correspond to the information offer data (AD) of an information provider (A₁ to A_n).~~

13. (Currently Amended) The transmissionswitching device as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12, characterized by~~further comprising a storage device (9) ~~for storing~~to store the evaluation of the quality of test data.

14. (New) The transmission device as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a storage device to store the evaluation of the quality of test data.
15. (New) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein at least one of information enquiry data and search result data are transmitted encrypted between an information seeker and the transmission device.
16. (New) A transmission device, comprising:
 - test interface means for receiving test data, transmitted to the transmission device by an information provider, representing information offered by the information provider;
 - evaluation means for evaluating the quality of test data; and
 - control means for making the admission of the information provider to a method for transmitting information dependent on the quality of the test data.
17. (New) The transmission device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:
 - a number of enquirer interface means for receiving information enquiry data transmitted to the transmission device by information seekers, and for sending search result data to terminals of the relevant information seekers;
 - a number of provider interface means for receiving information offer data which were transmitted to the transmission device by information providers and which

represent information offered by the respective information provider;

comparison means for comparing the information enquiry data and the information offer data for determining corresponding information enquiry data and information offer data; and

control means for causing search result data to be transmitted to the terminal of an information seeker if the information enquiry data of the relevant information seeker correspond to the information offer data of an information provider.

18. (New) The transmission device as claimed in claim 16, further comprising storage means for storing the evaluation of the quality of test data.
19. (New) The transmission device as claimed in claim 17, further comprising storage means for storing the evaluation of the quality of test data.